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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Chiharu HIRONO

Serial No.:

10/050,369

Filed:

January 16, 2002

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Group A.U.:

2672

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Technology Center 2600

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service in first class mail addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Jay H. Maioli Reg. No. 27,213

May 3, 2002 1185 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 (212) 278-0400

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-22, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 23-26.